

The following message was received from his Excellency the Governor:

EXECUTIVE OFFICE, STATE OF TEXAS,
AUSTIN, June 2, 1873.

Hon. E. B. Pickett, President of the Senate of the State of Texas:

SIR: I herewith return to the Senate, where it originated, the act entitled "An act for the relief of sureties upon official bonds."

This act affects every bonded officer of the State; it unsettles his tenure of office, and would simply render him subject to the behests and control of his sureties, totally destroying all independence of action on his part.

It contradicts the provisions of several general acts in relation to the bonds of officers and their force and effect, which have passed and become laws at this session. Among the rest "An act to regulate the assessment and collection of taxes," brought to me, and approved May thirty-first ult. This provides in section thirty-two, that the sheriff's bond "shall extend to the faithful performance of his duties for the full term for which he was elected."

It is proper enough to allow the State power to demand additional bond from any of its bonded officers, but it is not safe to allow the sureties this opportunity to harrass their principal, and interfere at any moment with the continuity of service of the officer.

Very respectfully,

EDMUND J. DAVIS, Governor.